

OREGON UPDATE ON ID/DD SERVICES

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Oregon's K State Plan Option is used to provide home and community based long term care to Oregonians with developmental disabilities. It is administered by the Office of Developmental Services (ODDS) and is part of the Affordable Care Act. ODDS serves around 7,500 children and 18,000 adults having intellectual and developmental difficulties. Most receive services in their own or family home. Group homes, supported living settings, and adult foster homes are also available for those who need residential services. Institutions or IFC/MRs are no longer available in Oregon apart from crisis units for up to about 5 individuals each. Obviously there is much concern over the current turmoil to replace Obama care and reduce Medicaid.

Direct care staff wages are among the highest concerns since staff turnover steadily remains due to low wages and challenging working conditions. The current governor's budget addresses this situation somewhat but legislative action is necessary to remedy the current situation.

Also a 2017-19 Target Reduction List has been issued by the legislative ways and means committee co-chairs which include increasing eligibility requirements for services, reducing case management funding, family support funding, vocational rehabilitation funding among others.

The legislature has also called for a single assessment tool to identify the needs of those served by ODDS. As of this April, a pilot program using a newly developed tool, the Oregon Needs

Assessment, was completed. It is to be used for all ID/DD individuals regardless of their residential setting and will eventually take the place of the assessment tools currently in use, including the SIS and the Annual Needs Assessment (administered by the case manager).

Last September, ODDS carried out a reassessment of those individuals receiving in-home services. This was in response to a legislative budget note since data revealed that the number of hours of services granted to individuals were not be used to their full extent. The average used was 38% lower. Consequently ODDS reduced the authorized hours by 30%. A class action lawsuit was filed protesting the cut in services by a group of individuals and their families with the assistance of Disability Rights Oregon. The claim was the reduction in services increases the risk of isolation and segregation--a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Also the cuts violate the terms specified on the Medicaid Act. As a result, an agreement was signed with Disability Rights Oregon (preliminary injunction) where the previous assessed hours are to be restored by June 15, 2017.

The current status of the Lane vs. Brown settlement is that its requirements are being met. Some sheltered workshops have closed and for those individuals who do not participate in Pathway to Employment programs, day programs are just about the only remaining option including for those individuals who do find limited employment. The average hours worked per week in 2016 was less than 13 hours. There are no new enrollments in sheltered workshops.

Various employment reports can be accessed by searching for Employment First Oregon.